

REMARKS

Applicants have received and carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed November 5, 2007, prior to preparing this response. Currently, claims 1, 2, 5-21, 24 and 26 are pending in the application, wherein claims 17-21 and 26 have been allowed, and claims 1, 2, 5-16 and 24 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 24 have been amended with this paper. Support for amendments to claims 1 and 24 may be found, for example, at lines 14-16 of page 10. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his favorable consideration of claims 17-21 and 26, noting these claims are indicated as allowable. Applicants believe that the remainder of the claims are also currently in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 6-12 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cryer, U.S. Patent No. 6,129,707. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites that the balloon catheter includes a hub assembly coupled to the proximal end of the elongate shaft, wherein the working lumen is in fluid communication with a lumen of the hub assembly. In reviewing FIG. 3 of Cryer, the inner tubular member 39 is being equated with the claimed elongate shaft, and the guidewire lumen 36 of the catheter is being equated with the claimed working lumen. However, as evidenced in FIG. 3, the proximal end of the inner tubular member 39 is not coupled to a hub assembly, but rather terminates at a distal location, providing the catheter with rapid exchange characteristics.

For at least this reason, Cryer fails to anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 6-12 and 15-16, which depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 5-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Keith et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,395,334. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites that the balloon catheter includes a hub assembly coupled to the proximal end of the elongate shaft, wherein the working lumen is in fluid communication with a lumen of the hub assembly. In reviewing FIG. 2 of Keith, the core tube 80 is being equated with the claimed elongate shaft, and the guidewire lumen 52 of the catheter is being equated with the claimed working lumen. However, as evidenced in FIG. 2, the proximal end of the core tube 80 is not coupled to a hub assembly, but rather terminates at a distal location, providing the catheter with rapid exchange characteristics.

For at least this reason, Keith fails to anticipate claim 1. Claims 5-14, which depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 6-16 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,217,547. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites that the balloon catheter includes a hub assembly coupled to the proximal end of the elongate shaft, wherein the working lumen is in fluid communication with a lumen of the hub assembly. In reviewing FIG. 3 of Lee, the inner tubular member 33 is being equated with the claimed elongate shaft, and the guidewire lumen 36 and guidewire port 37 of the catheter is being equated with the claimed working lumen. However, as evidenced in FIG. 3, the proximal end of the inner tubular member 33 is not coupled to a hub assembly, but rather terminates at a distal location, providing the catheter with rapid exchange characteristics.

For at least this reason, Lee fails to anticipate claim 1. Claims 2 and 6-16, which depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

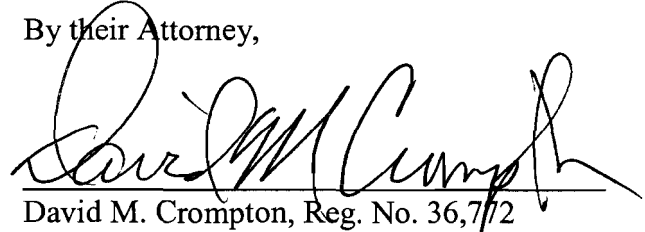
Additionally, claim 24, as currently amended, similarly recites a hub assembly coupled to the proximal end of the elongate shaft, wherein the working lumen is in fluid communication with a lumen of the hub assembly. For at least the reasons stated above, Lee fails to teach at least this limitation of claim 24. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Attorney,



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